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Weekly Review

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The WEEKLY REVIEW, issued every Friday morning by the Office of Current Intelligence, reports and analyzes significant developments of the week through noon on Thursday. It frequently includes material coordinated with or prepared by the Office of Economic Research, the Office of Strategic Research, and the Directorate of Science and Technology. Topics requiring more comprehensive treatment and therefore published separately as Special Reports are listed in the contents.

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7 Argentina: Growing Military Role

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ARGENTINA: GROWING MILITARY ROLE

The armed forces appear to be seeking a more active role as a power broker in Argentine politics. The continuing success of the army-supported counterterrorist campaign is bolstering army ego, and political activity by some military leaders is increasing.

The military is still smarting from the unpopularity that led the Lanusse regime to turn power back to civilians in 1973. Although a coup appears to be highly unlikely, the army is said to be "re-evaluating" its role in the government.

President Peron is gradually becoming more acceptable to military leaders, but they are growing more critical of the role of powerful Social Welfare Minister Lopez Rega, who is also Mrs. Peron's private secretary and mentor. Recent behavior attributed to Lopez Rega, such as his alleged claim to be in "communication" with Juan Peron, has led some officers to question his sanity. These critics contend that Mrs. Peron can get

along without him, providing she has the active support of the military and labor.

The military has increased informal contacts with key labor leaders recently, apparently in an effort to reduce the influence of extremists in the labor movement and to enhance relations between the military and labor, the strongest power sectors in the country.

Meanwhile, the terrorists are on the defensive. Their assassinations of army officers have significantly reduced their popular support and have encouraged maximum efforts by security forces. The terrorists reportedly believe that during the next few months they will have to concentrate on revitalizing their organization and infiltrating the labor movement. Nevertheless, they are still capable of spectacular operations—such as the attempted assassination of the Federal Police chief on December 23—and the war against terrorism is far from over

President Peron reviews jet fighters with air force chief of staff

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